



WHITE PLAINS
PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 Martine Avenue, White Plains, NY
914-422-1480 www.whiteplainslibrary.org

News Release

CONTACT INFORMATION

[White Plains Public Library](#)

Nancy Kunz, Community Relations Librarian

CALL: 914-422-6947

nkunz@whiteplainslibrary.org

[White Plains Library Foundation](#)

Libby Hollahan, Executive Director

CALL: 914-422-1495

lhollahan@whiteplainslibrary.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

White Plains Public Library to Break Ground on Its New Teen Space, The Edge

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (June 14, 2013) – The White Plains Public Library will hold a groundbreaking ceremony at the Library on Monday, June 24 at 10 a.m. for Phase One of the Library's first floor renovation project. Phase One includes a new 3,000 square foot space for teens: The Edge.

Phase One, which embraces the east side of the Library's first floor, will also include self-check services, reposition fiction and other popular collections, and replace ceiling, carpet, and lighting. The renovation will take approximately five months and will be completed in November. The Library will continue to operate without interruption throughout the construction.

The renovations are part of a three-year capital project, a partnership between the City of White Plains and the White Plains Library Foundation. The White Plains Common Council authorized the first phase of the project at its June 3 meeting.

"This three-year renovation project is a major opportunity for the Library to align its space with changing community needs," said Paul Schwarz, president of the White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees. "This year, we look forward to opening The Edge. In the next two years—through the addition of a Learning Commons and a Café/Friends' Bookstore—we will provide enhanced services and a welcoming destination for adults. We thank Mayor Thomas Roach and the entire White Plains Common Council for their strong support and the Library Foundation for its significant financial contribution."

The White Plains Library Foundation's previous project, The Trove children's library, opened in 2005. "Following the success of the Trove, the Foundation has aspired to create for White Plains teens their own place in the Library," said Nicholas R. Wolff, president of the White Plains Library Foundation. "We are thrilled that The Edge is almost a reality, thanks to the commitment of our donors and community. Through our fundraising campaign, Building New Learning Opportunities: The Edge and Beyond, we look forward to supporting the later phases of the first-floor revitalization." The Foundation is investing more than \$800,000 in the entire first floor renovation project.

Mayor Thomas M. Roach said, "Working together, the City, Library staff and Library Foundation have been able to bring excellent library service to White Plains, extending operating hours, expanding digital media services, building The Edge for teens and adding new learning opportunities for adults. This renovation project will enhance this vital community asset to benefit everyone who lives or works in White Plains. We have developed a model public-private partnership that has resulted in real value for our taxpayers and patrons. As a Library visitor and father of two boys who have grown up in The Trove, my family is excited that The Edge will open soon."

The current White Plains Public Library, located at 100 Martine Avenue in downtown White Plains, opened in 1974. Open seven days a week, in 2012 the Library welcomed over 450,000 visitors, circulated over 700,000 items, and provided nearly 1,500 programs. The White Plains Library Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in 1995, raises private funds to enhance the Library's programs and services and to support building improvements. Visit www.whiteplainslibrary.org for more information about the Library and foundation.whiteplainslibrary.org for more information about the Foundation.

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